

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 048570

O 200304Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2098

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 8730

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM BYROADE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PK

SUBJ: YOUR MEETING WITH AZIZ AHMED: MILITARY SUPPLY ISSUES

1. THIS MESSAGE WILL BRING YOU UP-TO-DATE GENERALLY ON WHERE WE STAND ON THE SUBJECT OF MILITARY SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN PRIOR TO YOUR MEETING WITH AZIZ AHMED. IT WILL ALSO SUGGEST A SPECIFIC ACTION ON YOUR PART WHICH WOULD BE HIGHLY BENEFICIAL IN MEETING BOTH REAL AN PSYCHOLOGICAL NEED HERE FOR SOME CONCRETE ACTION ON OUR PART.

2. AFTER PRODUCING VARIOUS LISTS OF DESIRED EQUIPMENT WHICH LACKED REALISTIC PROFESSIONALISM AS REGARDS TYPES AND AMOUNTS OF EQUIPMENT, AZIZ AHMED SOME SIX WEEKS AGO GAVE ME THREE NEW LISTS. THERE WAS A SHORT LIST OF HIGH PRIORITY ITEMS TOTALLING ROUGHLY 70 MILLION DOLLARS. THE OTHER TWO LISTS WERE CATEGORIZED AS LETHAL AND NON-LETHAL AND CONTAINED LONGER RANGE REQUIREMENTS WHICH WE ESTIMATE AT SOMEWHERE AROUND 300 MILLION DOLLARS. AS THE FIRST STEP IN ANY DECISION MAKING PROCESS REQUIRED POSSESSION OF P AND A (PRICE AND AVAILABILITY) DATA, WE PROMPTLY REQUESTED SUCH INFORMATION ON THE ITEMS ON THEIR LISTS THAT WERE NOT COVERED BY EARLIER REQUESTS FOR SUCH DATA BASED ON PREVIOUS LISTS. AFTER INITIAL DELAYS, WHICH SEEMED
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TO ME SOMEWHAT EXCESSIVE, THIS DATA IS BEGINNING TO

COME IN.

3. WE NOW HAVE IN PAK HANDS ALL THE DATA AND INFORMATION THEY NEED TO GO AHEAD WITH ORDERS IN THE AMOUNT OF ABOUT 50 MILLION DOLLARS AND ARE AWAITING THEIR GO-AHEAD BEFORE FINALIZING THE PURCHASE ORDER PROCESS. THE BIG MONEY ITEMS IN THIS CATEGORY INCLUDE AMMUNITION AND VEHICLES AND GENERALLY HAVE A REASONABLE LEAD-TIME OF ABOUT 18 MONTHS. IN MOST CASES, INCIDENTALLY, THE ITEMS IT INCLUDES COULD HAVE BEEN PURCHASED AT ANY TIME UNDER OUR SALES POLICY, EVEN BEFORE THE EMBARGO WAS LIFTED. WE ASSUME THEIR PRESENT DELAY IN THESE ITEMS TO BE THE FINAL COORDINATION REQUIRED WITHIN THE GOP ON ACTUAL ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

4. AS THE PAKS FACE UP TO THEIR FUNDING PROBLEM THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY FRUSTRATED BY THEIR OWN LACK OF RESOURCES AND THE GROWING REALIZATION THAT THEY MOST PROBABLY CANNOT GET FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM SUCH FRIENDS AS IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA IN THE AMOUNTS THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY HOPED FOR. IN SUMMARY, THE IRANIAN POSITION APPEARS TO BE THAT THEY WILL HELP PAKISTAN FINANCIALLY TO SOME EXTENT BUT THIS IS AS YET UNDEFINED IN ANY SPECIFIC MANNER. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT THEY TAKE THE VIEW THAT THEY HAVE NO SURPLUS EQUIPMENT WHICH COULD BE TRANSFERRED OUTRIGHT, WITH OUR BLESSING OF COURSE IF IT WAS OF U.S. ORIGIN, TO PAKISTAN. BHUTTO WAS ALSO NOT ABLE TO GET A SPECIFIC COMMITMENT RE FUNDS OUT OF SAUDI ARABIA ON HIS RECENT TRIP THERE. THE SAUDIS WERE APPARENTLY SYMPATHETIC, SUGGESTING THAT PAKISTAN GO AHEAD WITH THEIR PURCHASES FROM AMERICA, AND COME TO THEM ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS WHERE THEY REALLY NEEDED FINANCIAL HELP.

5. RETURNING FROM SAUDI ARABIA, AZIZ AHMED TOLD ME THAT BHUTTO WHILE THERE HAD MADE THREE SPECIFIC DECISIONS, TO BE PASSED ON TO ME, WHICH WERE AS FOLLOWS: (1) TO ASK ME FOR A LIST OF EQUIPMENT WHICH WAS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE SO THAT THEY COULD IN TURN PRESENT IT TO THE SAUDIS AND ASK FOR HELP; (2) THE

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DISPATCH OF A TEAM OF MILITARY EXPERTS FROM HERE TO WASHINGTON IN AN EFFORT TO CLARIFY NEW SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP AND TO SPEED UP PROCESS ON A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC ITEMS; AND (3) A WORKING VISIT FOR THE CHIEF OF AIR STAFF TO WASHINGTON AS QUICKLY AS IT COULD BE ARRANGED. ON THESE THREE ITEMS YOU SHOULD KNOW THE FOLLOWING:

6. ON (1) ABOVE, AZIZ AHMED WAS GFVTING BACK AGAIN TO HIS OFTEN REPEATED DESIRE TO BE ABLE TO BUY IMMEDIATELY AND OFF THE SHELF AVAILABLE ITEMS. HE CONTINUALLY IGNORES MY ASSERTIONS THAT IN GENERAL WE NO LONGER HAVE MILITARY ITEMS EITHER "IMMEDIATELY" AVAILABLE OR "ON THE SHELF". THE PAKS COULD, OF COURSE, ASK THE SAUDIS FOR HELP ON THE MISCELLANEOUS ASSORTMENT OF ITEMS AMOUNTING TO ABOUT 50 MILLION DOLLARS AS REFERRED TO ABOVE, WHICH COULD BE ORDERED IMMEDIATELY, ALTHOUGH DELIVERY WOULD AWAIT THE SPECIFIED LEAD TIME.

7. IN DISCUSSING THE PAK PROBLEM OF HAVING SOMETHING SPECIFIC IN HAND TO REAPPROACH THE SAUDIS WITH, AZIZ AHMED THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE MERIT IN THE GOP ASKING THE SAUDIS TO HELP IN A SPECIFIC WEAPONS SYSTEM, INSTEAD OF GOING TO THEM ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS ON VARIOUS UNRELATED ITEMS. IT OCCURRED TO BOTH OF US THAT THE SAUDIS MIGHT GET A GREATER SENSE OF SATISFACTION IN SUCH AN IDENTIFICATION WITH ONE OF PAKISTAN'S SPECIFIC DEFENSIVE NEEDS. I SUGGESTED AS AN EXAMPLE THAT THE SAUDIS MIGHT BE ASKED TO TAKE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTEGRATED AIR DEFENSE COMMAND AND CONTROL SETUP HERE WITH ALL OF ITS COMPONENTS, INCLUDING RADAR, COMMUNICATIONS, AUTOMATION, ETC. THE PAKS HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH OUR COMMERCIAL SUPPLIERS FOR MONTHS ON THIS BUT HAVE NOT MADE A DECISION AS YET AS JUST WHAT TO GO FOR. THEY REALIZE, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS ABSOLUTELY BASIC AS THE PAK ARMED FORCES HAVE VIRTUALLY NONE OF THIS TYPE OF EQUIPMENT WHICH IS NECESSARY FOR THE PROPER UTILIZATION OF EVEN THEIR PRESENT EQUIPMENT IN AN AIR DEFENSE SORT OF WAY, AND THE MORE SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT THAT THEY HOPE
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EVENTUALLY TO GET. I SAID THAT THIS PACKAGE WOULD

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 048905

O 200304Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2099

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 8730

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM BYROADE

PROBABLY COST ABOUT 100 MILLION DOLLARS WITH A LEAD TIME OF PERHAPS TWO YEARS. IN THIS REGARD I PASSED TO AZIZ THE WILLINGNESS OF OUR AIR FORCE TO SEND A TEAM OF QUALIFIED EXPERTS HERE TO HELP THE PAKS DETERMINE THEIR AUTOMATION NEEDS IN AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. HE ACCEPTED THIS ENTHUSIASTICALLY. YOU SHOUTB KKNOW THAT THIS IS IN FACT A REAL NEED FOR PAKISTAN, IT INVOLVES EQUIPMENT ON WHICH WE HAVE NO POLICY PROBLEMS AND COULD HAVE RELEASED IN FACT EVEN BEFORE THE EMBARGO WAS LIFTED. (EVEN THE INDIANS, WHO WE HELPED OUT EARLIER WITH AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM, WOULD BE HARD PUT TO FIND FAULT.) IT IS ALSO A FIELD IN WHICH THE SAUDIS ARE FAMILIEAR, HAVING GONE THROUGH THE SAME GENERAL PROCESS WITH OUR OWN COMMERCIAL COMPANIES. I HAD IN MIND A FURTHER THOUGHT THAT SAUDI ASSISTANCE IN THIS FIELD WOULD PROBABLY ENSURE THAT U.S. COMPANIES RECEIVE THIS ATTRACTIVE SALES OFFER RATHER THAN EUROPEAN COMPANIES WHO ARE ALSO ACTIVELY IN THE COMPETITION.

8. AS REGARDS (2) ABOVE, WE ARE SUBMITTING THE REQUEST SEPARATELY THAT STATE AND DEFENSE ACCEPT THE IDEA OF A SMALL TEAM OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO GO TO WASHINGTON ON VARIOUS SUPPLY MATTERS. THE TEAM COULD DISCUSS WITH ITS COUNTERPARTS IN DOD HOW TO IMPROVE SUPPLY PROCEDURES AND THE VARIOUS WAYS TO
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STRUCTURE AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROVED. PREPARING FOR THE VISIT WOULD ALSO ENCOURAGE THE PAKISTANIS TO IMPROVE THEIR OWN INTERNAL MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES AND WOULD REACQUAINT THEM WITH OUR SUPPLY PRACTICES WHICH HAVE CHANGED CONSIDERABLY DURING THE TEN YEAR HIATUS IN OUR SUPPLY OF LETHAL WEAPONS.

9. ITEM (3) ON THE VISIT OF THE AIR CHIEF HAS BEEN MORE OF A PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH HE IS AN IMPRESSIVE PROFESSIONAL WHOM I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MAKE THE TRIP. AZIZ AHMED WANTS HIS TRIP PRIMARILY TO SEE IF HE CAN CONVINCE OUR OFFICIALS IN THE PENTAGON AND STATE THAT PAKISTAN CAN HAVE NO REAL DEFENSE OF ITS BORDERS WITHOUT SOME ATTACK CAPABILITY, PARTICULARLY AGAINST ARMOR, WITH AN AIRCRAFT SUCH AS THE A-7. I HAVE COUNTERED WITH THE SUGGESTION THAT IT WOULD BE FAR BETTER THEN REGULAR PROTOCOL EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM RUN BY OUR AID FORCE. UNDER THIS CONTEXT HE OF COURSE CAN TALK ABOUT ANYTHING HE WANTS TO AS HE RECEIVES THE HIGHLY INTERESTING TOUR THAT OUR AIR FORCE PLANS FOR SUCH OCCASIONS. FYI, WE HAVE RECEIVED WORD THAT SUCH A VISIT COULD TAKE PLACE AT THE EARLIEST IN NOVEMBER, BUT THAT IT MIGHT SLIDE TO DECEMBER OR JANUARY. I RECOMMEND WE STICK TO THIS, ALTHOUGH I WOULD HOPE IT COULD BE IN NOVEMBER. END FYI. I HAVE IN ANY EVENT MADE IT CLEAR TO AZIZ AHMED THAT ANY CHANGE IN THE ARMS POLICY WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE SALE OF A SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT SUCH AS AN A-7 IS SIMPLY NOT IN THE CARDS AT THIS TIME, AND I WOULD STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY VISIT BY THE PAF AIR CHIEF WHICH WAS BUILT SOLELY AROUND THAT PRESENTLY UNATTAINABLE OBJECTIVE.

10. THUS IN GENERAL THINGS ARE MOVING, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT SLOWLY, ON THE QUESTION OF MILITARY SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN SOME SEVEN MONTHS AFTER YOU WERE ABLE TO GET THE EMBARGO REMOVED. WHAT WE NEED NOW, HOWEVER, IS SOME SPECIFIC ACT TO SHOW THAT WE ARE MAKING TANGIBLE PROGRESS. IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL, THEREFORE, IF YOU COULD SECURE WASHINGTON AGREEMENT
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WHICH WOULD ALLOW EITHER YOU OR THE PRESIDENT TO GIVE THE GO-AHEAD TO AZIZ ON THE EARLY AVAILABILITY OF A LIMITED QUANTITY OF TOW MISSILES. WITH OUR SUPPLY SITUATION ON THIS ITEM WHAT IT IS, I KNOW THIS WILL NOT BE EASY, BUT I WULD HOPE YOU COULD FIND 24 OF THESE FROM SOMEWHERE WHICH THE PAKS COULD PURCHASE FOR THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DELIVERY WHICH WOULD ALLOW THEM TO START THEIR ORGANIZATIONAL TRAINING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THIS SYSTEM. THE GOP HAS ASKED FOR 100 LAUNCHERS AND 5,000 ROCKETS ON ITS PRIORITY REQUEST LIST. OUR MILITARY PEOPLE HERE BELIEVE 72 LAUNCHERS WHICH 2700 ROCKETS IS MORE IN KEEPING WITH THEIR NEEDS. ALTHOUGH WE REALIZE THE MAJORITY WILL HAVE THE USUAL LEAD TIME OF TWO YEARS, WE HAVE SELECTED THE FIGURE OF 24 AS THIS WILL GIVE THEM SOME

IMMEDIATE OPERATIONAL AS WELL AS TRAINING CAPABILITY.

11. I WOULD HOPE THAT THIS WOULD NOT RAISE POLICY DIFFICULTIES SINCE IN OUR DISCUSSION WITH THE DEPARTMENT ON LIFTING THE EMBARGO AND IN TALKS WITH BOTH AZIZ AHMED AND BHUTTO IN WASHINGTON THE TOW WAS CITED AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT WE COULD SELL ONCE THE EMBARGO WAS LIFTED. IF AZIZ AHMED COULD BE TOLD WHILE IN THE STATES THAT WE ARE GOING AHEAD ON THE TOW IT WOULD NOT ONLY MOLLIFY HIM BUT WILL GIVE THE PAKS A NEW SENSE OF SATISFACTION WITH OUR ARMS POLICY. HE WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO REPORT TO BHUTTO THAT HE MADE AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD IN OUR MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP.
BYROADE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DATA, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, ARMS, POLICIES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ISLAMA08730
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750326-0707
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750932/aaaabbwj.tel
Line Count: 291
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YOUR MEETING WITH AZIZ AHMED: MILITARY SUPPLY ISSUES
TAGS: MASS, PK, US, (AZIZ AHMED)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006